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movements of the moon and the planets, his catalogue of a thousand stars, and his observations of comets, which were the means of refuting Aristotle's opinion that these bodies belonged to our atmosphere. Considerable space is devoted to Tycho's work in astrology, to which he gave much attention, and in which his faith, though not as enthusiastic as that of some men, was never abandoned. Altogether, Professor Dreyer's work is worthy of its theme, and will hold an honorable place among biographies of scientific men.

Introduction to the Study of Federal Government. By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. (Harvard Historical Monographs, No. 2). Boston, Ginn. 8°. $1 net.

WE noticed the first of these monographs a short time since, and we are now glad to receive the second. It is only an introductory work, forming a pamphlet of two hundred pages, and the author tells us in his preface that it is to be followed in due time by an extended treatise on the same subject; yet it is of real value in itself. Professor Hart opens his work with a discussion of the nature of federation and of the various types of federal government that are known in history, — a discussion that shows a clear view of the questions involved, and considerable power of philosophic thought. He next proceeds to a brief but very clear account of the ancient and mediæval confederations from the first conception of the federal idea among the Greeks to the Holy Roman Empire, then gives a description of the four great existing federations, — those of the United States, Switzerland, Germany, and Canada, — and closes with a short chapter on the Latin-American federations, in which he has no great confidence The monograph is written in a good style, and shows throughout not only a careful study of the facts, but also the fruits of thought and meditation, which are not always found in American historical writings. Besides the text of the work, there is a long and elaborate appendix, containing a conspectus of the four chief existing federations mentioned above, arranged in parallel form, and giving the provisions of each of the four constitutions on every important point. This appendix thus presents a large amount of information in a form convenient for reference; and there is also another appendix containing a bibliography of federal government. Altogether, the pamphlet is a creditable one; and historical writers in our other universities will have to do better than they have done heretofore if their work is to rank on a level with these Harvard monographs.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE latest number of the "Proceedings of the United States Naval Institute" opens with an interesting article on the protection of the hulls of vessels by lacquer, detailing the results of experiments on several Japanese men-of-war. The experiments seem to prove that lacquer is a perfect protection against the action of sea-water so long as the coat remains unbroken.

— Norman W. Henley & Co., publishers and importers of scientific and technical books (150 Nassau Street, this city), announce for immediate publication "Rubber Hand-Stamp Making and the Manipulation of Rubber," by T. O'Conor Sloane, A.M; and "Arithmetic of Electricity," by the same author. They have also in preparation the "Manufacturers', Mechanics', and Business Men's Assistant," by Benjamin Franklin, LL.B.

— Among the principal articles in the *Journal of the Military Service Institution* for January are the following: "A Practical Scheme for Training the Regular Army in Field Duties for War" (a prize essay), by Lieut. Read; "A Proposed Change in Artillery School Methods," by Lieut. Hunter; "Modern Bobadilism," by Capt. Chester; "Strategy, Tactics, and Policy" (a summary), by Lieut. Bush; "The Gyroscope and 'Drift,'" by Lieut. Richmond; "Practical Education of the Soldier," by Lieut. Parkhurst; and "The Battle of Plattsburg," by Gen. Macomb.

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Publications received at Editor's Office, Jan. 5-10.

OPTICIAN, The. Vol. I. No. 1. *m.* New York, Frederick Boger. 16 p. 8°. 50 cents per year.
SCUDDER, H. E. Fables and Folk Stories. Part II. (Riverside Literature Series, No. 48.) Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 200 p. 16°. 15 cents.
SZCZEPANSKI, F. v., *ed.* Bibliotheca Polytechnica. Directory of Technical Literature. New York, Internat. News Co. 80 p. 12°.
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Ninth Annual Report of the, to the Secretary of the Interior, 1887-88. Washington, Government. 717 p. 4°.
UPHAM, W. Report of Exploration of the Glacial Lake Agassiz in Manitoba. Montreal, W. F. Brown & Co. 156 p. 8°. 25 cents.
VOGDES, A. W. A Bibliography of Paleozoic Crustacea from 1698 to 1889. Washington, Government. 177 p. 8°.
WATKINS, J. E. Report on the Section of Transportation and Engineering in the U. S. National Museum, 1888. Washington, Government. 5 p. 8°.
WEED, W H The Formation of Travertine and Siliceous Sinter by the Vegetation of Hot Springs. Washington, Government. 62 p. f°.
WILSON, T. A Study of Prehistoric Anthropology.—Hand-Book for Beginners. Washington, Government. 75 p. 8°.
—— Results of an Inquiry as to the Existence of Man in North America during the Paleolithic Period of the Stone Age. Washington, Government. 26. 8°.
WRIGHT, G. F. The Glacial Boundary in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. (Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 58.) Washington, Government. 112 p. 8°.

AMERICAN HERO-MYTHS.

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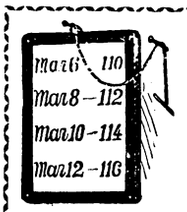

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